

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /062 W

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R 281905Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8360

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03444

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: SECOND EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING

1. SUMMARY: COMMENTING ON THE GENEVA EAST-WEST TRADE

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UNION CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 1, THE CON-

SERVATIVE DAILY DIE WELT SAYS THAT EUROPEAN WORKERS WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH A CHALLENGING EVENT WHEN THE SECOND "PAN-EUROPEAN" TRADE UNION CONFERENCE MEETS TO DISCUSS HUMANIZATION OF WORK ENVIRONMENT, JOB SECURITY AND OTHER SOCIAL POLICY ISSUES. THE PAPER NOTED THAT THE AFL-CIO ALREADY HAS EXPRESSED ITS "DISGUST," WARNING THAT THE WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS, AFTER AN EXTENSIVE FLIRTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE, HAD NO OTHER CHOICE THAN A FURTHER FRATERNIZATION WITH THOSE WHO SYSTEMATICALLY DISREGARD THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WORKERS TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNIST RULING CLASS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PAPER CONTINUES THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN ILO MEETING, RECALLING THAT THE ILO APPROVED IN 1949 AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO PROTECT TRADE UNION RIGHTS, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE SOVIET LABOR ORGANIZATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, EUROPE HAS TO FACE A PERIOD OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THOSE WHO ADVOCATED ADVOCATE AND THOSE WHO SCORN DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION RIGHTS.

3. "THE FACT THAT DGB PRESIDENT HEINZ O. VETTER...IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THIS FATAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH BURDENS THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, IS ONE OF THE BY-PRODUCTS AND RESULTS OF AN OSTPOLITIK, WHICH HAS RAISED THE IDEA OF DETENTE TO THE LEVEL OF A FETISH," THE PAPER STATES.

4. THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT KNOW VERY WELL WHAT SHELEPIN'S GOALS ARE. HE WANTS TO REVERSE THE 1949 DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT SINCE THE COMMUNIST SIDE, AS A RESULT OF ITS NUMERICAL PREPONDERANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DISCIPLINE, CAN DECISIVELY INFLUENCE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION POLICY EVEN THOUGH REUNIFICATION IS ACHIEVED ONLY STEP-BY-STEP.

5. FURTHERMORE, DIE WELT CONTINUES, MOSCOW'S EUROPEAN UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY SEEKS TO GRADUALLY REMOVE AMERICAN PRESENCE ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT. THE SOVIET TRADE UNIONS LED BY FORMER SOVIET INTELLIGENCE CHIEF SCHELEPIN HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED THE SPECIAL TASK OF MOBILIZING LABOR IN WESTERN EUROPE AGAINST US POLICY IN THE NAME OF PAX SOVIETICA.

6. THE EARLIER THE SOVIETS SUCCEED IN DRIVING A WEDGE

BETWEEN THE AFL-CIO AND THE ICFTU AND ETUC, THE EARLIER
AN EVENTUAL RUPTURE BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THEIR
WEST EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES WILL OCCUR.

7. THE IDEA ALONE THAT DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS COULD
DISCUSS THE HUMANIZATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS WITH
COMMUNISTS IN GENEVA WOULD HAVE APPEARED FOOLISH AND
UNREALISTIC UNTIL 1969 WHEN "PROGRESS" MOVED INTO
PALAIS SCHAUMBURG (THE RESIDENCE OF THE GERMAN
CHANCELLOR). SINCE 1969 THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT-
CONTROLLED TRADE UNIONS HAVE EVOLVED INTO THE CHAMPIONS

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OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN ALL COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE
SOVIET BLOC, WHILE REFUSING TO CONSIDER ANY COMPLAINT
IN THE ILO ABOUT THE CONSTANT VIOLATION OF TRADE UNIONS
RIGHTS IN COMMUNIST-DOMINATED COUNTRIES. SCHELEPIN
NEVER LEFT ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE FACT, THE PAPER
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NOTES, THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO
PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT CAMPAIGN WITH WEST EUROPEAN
TRADE UNIONS AGAINST THE "MULTINATIONALS," OR, IN MORE
CONCRETE TERMS, AGAINST THE CAPITALIST ECONOMIC
SYSTEM. THEREFORE, THIS MEETING IS AN UNWORTHY BLUFF
DESIGNED TO MISLEAD PUBLIC OPINION IN WESTERN EUROPE
IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS PRESENTED AS SERVING THE
INTERESTS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS. THIS CANNOT BE THE CASE
SINCE NEITHER THE DGB NOR ANY OTHER (WESTERN) LABOR OR-
GANIZATION WILL SUCCEED IN GAINING SUPPORT OF THE EAST
EUROPEAN UNIONS, ESPECIALLY NOW DURING THE LAST
YEAR OF THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN, TO CHANGE THEIR
ROLE BY REFUSING TO ACT AS A SLAVE DRIVER FOR REACHING
COMMUNIST PRODUCTION GOALS.

8. DIE WELT CONCLUDES THAT THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCHEDULED
FOR DISCUSSION IN GENEVA SERVE AS A CAMOUFLAGE FOR
MOSCOW'S MORE IMPORTANT TASK OF MAKING PREPARATIONS
FOR A POPULAR FRONT POLICY IN WESTERN EUROPE. EVEN
THOSE WHO ARE POLITICALLY NAIVE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT
THIS POPULAR FRONT WILL BE THE COMMUNISTS NEXT STEP
AFTER THE CSCE SUMMIT MEETING TO SUBVERT WESTERN
DEMOCRACY. THEREFORE, THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE
GERMAN DGB CO-SPONSORSHIP MAY BE CONSIDERED AS AN EVIL
WHICH CAN ONLY BE VIEWED "WITH DISGUST," (AS THE AFL-
CIO HAS SAID).
HILLENBRAND

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